

Remarks

I. Status of the Application and Claims

The present application represents U.S. national stage of international application PCT/EP2004/002578, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Priority is also claimed to Italian application NO 2003 A 000006. All of the original claims in the international application have been cancelled herein and replaced with new claims 5-24.

II. The Amendments

Original claims 1-4 have been cancelled without prejudice. These have been replaced with new claims 5-24 which Applicants believe more clearly define the claimed subject matter. Support for the new claims may be found in the claims originally present as well as in the specification of the application. In addition, the specification has been amended to cross reference related applications relied upon for priority and to add section headings to the text. None of the amendments made herein add new matter to the application, and their entry is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a phone call may help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (202) 419-7013.

Respectfully submitted,

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